

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 077914

EXDIS - CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MNUC, PARM, PORG, UNSC, SF, NI

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE UNSC ACTION ON SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR
ACTIVIY

REF: A) LAGOS 3784; B) USUN 1064; C) STATE 74812

1. DEPARTMENT CONCURS WITH VIEW OF EMBASSY LAGOS AND USUN THAT MOST EFFECTIVE APPROACH TO NIGERIANS ON SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR ISSUE WOULD BE TO OBASANJO DURING PRESIDENT'S VISIT, AND BRIEFING PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN PREPARED. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON OUR DISCUSSIONS OF THIS ISSUE WITH SOUTH AFRICANS DURING LAST SIX MONTHS WILL BE SENT TO LAGOS SEPTTEL FOR AMBASSADOR'S FOLLOW-UP USE WITH NIGERIANS AFTER SUMMIT.

2. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE VALIDITY OF POINT MADE BY BOTH LAGOS AND USUN THAT CONTINUING STRAINS IN RELATIONS BETWEEN NIGERIANS AND FRANCOPHONE AFRICANS IN UN CONTEXT REDUCE IMPACT OF GAINING NIGERIAN ACQUIESCENCE AND PUT PREMIUM ON PERSUADING FRANCOPHONES THAT SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION AT THIS TIME WOULD BE UNWISE. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE BELIEVE THAT FRENCH COULD USE THEIR CLOSE TIES WITH FRANCOPHONES. GABON, AS MEMBER OF SECURITY COUNCIL AND

COUNTRY PARTICULARLY CLOSE TO FRANCE, IN NUCLEAR FIELD AS WELL, SEEMS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT. FRENCH OBVIOUSLY SHARE OUR CONCERNS OVER POSSIBLE SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION, AS INDICATED IN MARCH 24 TELEPHONE CALL FROM AMB. DE LABOULAYE TO DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY NYE.

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3. FOR USUN: AT MARCH 28 MEETING, MISSION SHOULD ADVISE OTHER FOUR THAT WE INTEND TO RAISE SUBJECT WITH NIGERIANS AT A HIGH LEVEL. (YOU SHOULD NOT INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT PRESIDENT WILL TAKE THIS UP WITH OBASANJO). OTHER FOUR SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO RAISE SUBJECT WITH NIGERIANS IF THEY BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL, AND FRENCH INTERVENTION WITH GABON AND OTHER KEY FRANCOPHONE AFRICANS SHOULD BE SUGGESTED.

4. FOR PARIS: YOU SHOULD ADVISE QUAI THAT WE SHARE FRENCH CONCERN, AS EXPRESSED BY AMB. DE LABOULAYE, OVER NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS OF AFRICAN MOVE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR ISSUE AND ADVISE THAT WE PLAN TO RAISE SUBJECT WITH NIGERIANS. EMBASSY SHOULD ENCOURAGE FRENCH, IF THEY HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, TO APPROACH GABON AND OTHERS. WE ALSO BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL, AS AMB. DE LABOULAYE ADVISED NYE HE HAD PROPOSED TO QUAI, THAT FRENCH MAKE POINT TO SOUTH AFRICANS THAT ACCEPTANCE OF FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR FURTHER COOPERATION.

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